



Government Media Advisory

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Heather Butler, MHA

Study For Better Water Supply At Bicheno

A re-elected majority Labor Government will fund a \$60,000 study to consider ways of improving the water supply for Bicheno.

Labor Lyons member Heather Butler says the town's water supply has benefited from a Clean Quality Water Program grant to treat the water to a high standard.

However, the quantity of water available remains a problem.

"Through dry summers Bicheno can run critically short of water and work done by the Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment has identified a number of options to improve the situation.

"The water shortage is hampering potential development."

"The annual demand for water at Bicheno is 210 megalitres a year and is forecast to rise to 415 megalitres by 2024

"The existing water supply is provided from a natural pond on the Apsley River, with an estimated 100 megalitres, and pumped to two reservoirs.

"High demand in summer has led to water restrictions and a reliable year-round supply is deemed critical for the town."

Mrs Butler said in a clear demonstration of Labor's commitment to working in partnership with local

governments and communities work through the State Water Development Plan had identified four options to augment the water supply.

"Costings of the options range from \$400,000 to more than \$1 million so it is vital that we get the right project to provide for demand over the next 20 years.

"This \$60,000 study will complete a proper comparison of the options and take the selected project through the approval process.

"The recovery of the State economy under majority Labor Government and our disciplined fiscal approach has given rise to the possibility of the State helping with this type of community infrastructure.

"The fact that communities are confidently looking forward to continuing growth is a very different story to that of eight years ago."